

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05493 250726Z

17

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 FEA-01 /065 W

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R 250656Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695

US ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS TOKYO 5493

ERDA PASS TO H. BROWN NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: RADIATION EXPOSURE AT TOKAI

1. ON APRIL 24, TEN PEOPLE WORKING INPNC'S TOKAI REPROCESSING PLANT WERE SLIGHTLY EXPOSED TO CO-60 RADIATION. PNC INDICATED THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A "PRIMITIVE MISTAKE".

2. AROUND ELEVEN AM SHIELD TESTING OF THE MECHANICAL PROCESSING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT WAS GOING TO BEGIN BY USING CO-60. WHEN A 9,000 CURIE CO-60 RADIATION SOURCE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE CASK BY MANIPULATORS, THE WORKERS IN THE MECHANICAL PROCESSING ROOM NOTICED THAT TEN PEOPLE WERE WORKING ON THE CONCRETE WALL OF THE BASEMENT POOL. THE WORKERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR SHOUTED TO THE TEN PEOPLE IN THE BASEMENT, WHO LEFT IMMEDIATELY.

3. THE TEN INDIVIDUALS WERE FIVE PNC EMPLOYEES, THREE FROM JAPAN GASOLINE CO. AND TWO SUBCONTRACTOR WORKERS. EXPOSURE TO RADIATION EXPOSURE WAS LESS THAN FIVE MILLI-REMS FOR SEVEN PEOPLE AND LESS THAN ONE MILLI-REM FOR THREE. SINCE THE ESTABLISHED MAXIMUM EXPOSURE LIMIT IN THE CONTROLLED AREA IS 30 MILLI-REMS A WEEK, PNC DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE EXPOSURE RESULTED IN HARM TO THE HEALTH OF THE WORKERS. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST RADIATION EXPOSURE INCIDENT IN THE REPROCESSING
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PLANT.

4. THE MECHANICAL PROCESSING ROOM AND THE POOL ARE CONNECTED BY A SLOPED TUNNEL. THE POOL WAS WITHOUT WATER AS THE MACHINES WERE TO BE CHECKED. THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT WAS THAT NO ADVANCE WARNING HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE IN THE POOL. PNC ADMITS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A REALLY PRIMITIVE MISTAKE. FURTHERMORE, ONLY THREE OF THE TEN PEOPLE WORE POCIET DOSIMETERS.

5. THE REPROCESSING PLANT IS UNDERGOING OVERALL ADJUSTMENTS AND TESTING IN PREPARATION FOR THE COLD TEST RUN TO BEGIN IN JUNE.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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